

Amendments to the Claims

Please cancel Claims 14-20, 22-30 and 44-54. Please amend Claim 21. The Claim Listing below will replace all prior versions of the claims in the application:

Claim Listing

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for regulating data flow to a network comprising:
a mechanical lock assembly having multiple activated positions that is activated by turning a key; and
an electronic circuit that senses a position of the key in the lock assembly to regulate a flow of data information to a target network based on data flow rules selected by the position of the key.
2. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the data information is intercepted and decoded by the electronic circuit to identify requests for data available on the network, and the data information including a request for data is transmitted to a target network when the key is in an enabling position of the lock assembly.
3. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the data information includes network data packets transmitted to a wide area network from which information is accessed.
4. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the network is the Internet.
5. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the electronic circuit has access to a database of data flow rules for determining which data information is allowed to flow to the network.
6. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the electronic circuit decodes the data information to determine a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) indicating a target address on the network from which information is to be accessed, the electronic circuit enabling

further transmission of the data information to the target address based on data flow rules and a position of the key in the lock assembly.

7. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 5, wherein the electronic circuit decodes the data information to determine an IP (Internet Protocol) target address indicating to which network address a data packet is directed, the electronic circuit enabling further transmission of the data information to the target address based on data flow rules and a position of the key in the lock assembly.
8. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the data information is generated by a user at a computer on a first network and the data information is transmitted to a target address on a second network.
9. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 8, wherein the target address on the second network is a server.
10. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the data information includes a request for web page information.
11. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 1, wherein the electronic circuit enables a flow of data information to a target network based upon a provided password.
12. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the password is provided by a user attempting to access information from a target address.
13. (Original) An apparatus as in claim 11, wherein the password is provided by a person activating the lock assembly by turning the key.

14-20. Canceled.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus as in claim 14~~ A device for regulating data information transmitted through a communication link, the device comprising:
a sensing unit that detects a position of a switch coupled to a lock assembly, the switch being activated by turning a key to a position in the lock assembly;
a memory device for storing data flow rules of the communication link; and
a communication controller that intercepts the data information transmitted through the communication link and, based on the data flow rules as selected by a position of the switch and a provided password, regulates a further flow of the data information through the communication link, wherein the communication link supports data information flows of multiple session types and the data flow rules indicate which session types shall be supported by the communication link, the communication controller further transmitting intercepted data information associated with allowed session types based on a position of the key in the lock assembly in conjunction with the provided password.
- 22-30. Canceled.
31. (Previously Presented) A method of limiting access to a network, the method comprising:
sensing a position of a switch having multiple activated positions coupled to a lock assembly activated by turning a key; and
regulating a flow of data information to the network through a communication link based on data flow rules selected by the a position of the switch.
32. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the step of enabling a flow of data information includes:
intercepting the data information;
decoding the data information to identify requests for information available on the network; and

based on a position of the switch, transmitting the data information including requests to a corresponding target address or blocking the data information from a target address.

33. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the data information includes network data packets transmitted to a wide area network from which information is accessed.
34. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the network is the Internet.
35. (Original) A method as in claim 31 further comprising the step of:
accessing a database of data flow rules for determining which data information is allowed to flow to the network.
36. (Original) A method as in claim 35 further comprising the steps of:
decoding the data information to determine a URL (Uniform Resource Locator) indicating a target address on the network from which information is to be accessed; and
enabling further transmission of the data information to the target address based on data flow rules and a position of the key in the lock assembly.
37. (Original) A method as in claim 35 further comprising the steps of:
decoding the data information to determine an IP (Internet Protocol) target address indicating to which network address a data packet is directed; and
enabling further transmission of the data information to the target address based on data flow rules as selected by a position of the key in the lock assembly.
38. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the data information is generated by a user at a computer on a first network and the data information is transmitted to a target address on a second network.

39. (Original) A method as in claim 38, wherein the target address on the second network is a server.
40. (Original) A method as in claim 31, wherein the data information includes a request for web page information.
41. (Original) A method as in claim 31, further comprising the step of:
enabling a flow of data information to a target network based upon a provided password.
42. (Original) A method as in claim 41, wherein the password is provided by a user attempting to transmit corresponding data information.
43. (Original) A method as in claim 41, wherein the password is provided by a person activating the lock assembly by turning the key.
- 44-54. Canceled.
55. (Previously Presented) A method of limiting access to a network, the method comprising:
means for sensing a position of a switch having multiple activated positions coupled to a lock assembly activated by turning a key; and
means for regulating a flow of data information to the network through a communication link based on data flow rules selected by the position of the switch.